


Gulf Wing

A man with short brown hair, wearing a red life vest and a dark shirt, is floating in the ocean. He is holding a surfboard with both hands. The water is a mix of blue and green, and the background is a bright, hazy sky.

403rd Wing, Keesler AFB, Miss.
Air Force Reserve Command

Home of the Flying Jennies & the Hurricane Hunters
Volume 25, Issue 3, March 2004

Fit to Float

53rd trains to survive
on the open sea
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403rd unit
headed for
Southwest Asia,
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Award Presented by Klein Family

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96th APS Deploys

Approximately 100 members of the 96th Aerial Port Squadron recently proved their war readiness by responding to a short-notice deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The deployment is expected to last a year. **Read more on Page 7.**

Hurricane Hunter Earns Her Wings

After more than 10 years without a female pilot, the Hurricane Hunters welcomed aboard 2nd Lt. Dena Schulz after her graduation from Undergraduate Pilot Training in June. **Read more on Page 8.**



Photo by SrA J. Justin Pearce

Cover Page



Fit to Float

Maneuvering through the water underneath a parachute, Maj. Jim Applegate, makes his way to the edge, as the Hurricane Hunters splashed into annual survival training. **Read more on Pages 10-11.**

Civilian Commander's Call

Civilian Commander's Call, will be held at 11:30 a.m. March 15 at the Keesler Marina pavilion. An Italian Cookoff will be held in conjunction with the event. For information about the cookoff, contact Maj. Norby Patterson at 377-3440.

Wing Tests Ability to Survive

More than 130 troops from the 403rd Wing boarded C-130s and "deployed" to the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport Feb. 6. **Read more on Page 9.**

Outprocess Properly to Ensure Family Benefits

So, you're going to be on extended orders. Do you have to out-process for this particular duty? If so, where do you start? Who do you contact if you have further questions? Will you accrue leave? Are you authorized downtime upon your return? Learn about the process so your benefits arrive on time. **Read more on Page 12.**

Alabama recruiter looks for good fit

By SrA Michael Eaton
Staff Writer

Dedication and a sense of duty are just two of the qualities one 403rd recruiter most respects about his fellow airmen and military veterans.

Master Sgt. Robert T. Bazor, the 403rd Recruiting Squadron's representative in Alabama, said he can remember calls from veterans just after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"There were a number of retirees who called and wanted to know how they could help," he said. "Even though they knew they did not meet the age requirements, they were willing to do anything they could to help the troops."

Sergeant Bazor said there are enough people out there who want to serve our country that he doesn't have to persuade people to join the Air Force Reserve. He said he simply treats people the way they want to be treated, listens to them, and then gives them what they are looking for and more.

As a line recruiter for the 403rd Wing, he recruits in Alabama and has a recruiting district that reaches west to east across the state. It runs about 125 miles to the north from the Alabama shoreline.

Since he started recruiting in 2001, he has developed a philosophy of helping people get what they want when they join the Air Force Reserve.

He said when potential recruits come in to his office looking for specific programs that are not offered through the Air Force Reserve, he has



Photo by SrA Michael Eaton

Recruiter Robert Bazor, pinned on his Master Sergeant stripes in March.

no problem directing them to someone else who can help them.

Different branches offer different incentives, he said. Whether it is active duty Air Force or another branch of service altogether, he believes the referral is in the best interests of the individual and the military.

"People join the service for various reasons," said Sergeant Bazor. "Many of the young people joining today sign-up because they want money for school."

After undergoing training and having been in for a year or so they find themselves going for other reasons. Many see they are making a difference and gain a sense of camaraderie and

pride in their service, he said.

Being a recruiter has its rewards, said Sergeant Bazor, who is married with a five-year-old son.

He said it's nice to put someone in and then see them after they have gone through the rigors of basic training and tech school.

It's nice to see the change that many go through, he added.

He said many people come back and thank him for making a difference in their lives.

Sergeant Bazor's military career prior to recruiting was in Security Forces. He said he always thought recruiting was a good career but didn't know how to become a recruiter.

One day, the sergeant, who has been in the military since 1990, opened up his Leave and Earnings Statement and it had a message calling for airmen to sign up for recruiting duty. He called the local recruiting squadron and put in his package.

Sergeant Bazor said he really has enjoyed his military career and looks forward to the future in recruiting. He said he is going to continue to deliver to the people exactly what they want.

He is also a believer in the a program that makes every member of the Reserve a recruiter — the Get One Program.

"It's a way people can improve their units," he said. "The Get one Program is designed to let people refer friends and acquaintances who are interested in the Reserve or have backgrounds that make them a good fit."

He said it is a way we can all make a difference.

NEWCOMERS

Maj. Travis I. Bealmear, 815th AS
SrA Ryan P. Bean, 403rd CES
A1C Kevin C. Burnett, 403rd CES
SrA Grayling B. Boacage Jr., 53rd WRS
SSgt. Douglas J. Borel, 403rd MOF
SSgt. Raymond C. Cardwell, 403rd MXS
TSgt. Robin L. Decker, 403rd OSF
SSgt. Frederick D. Grant, 815th AS
A1C Tytus L. King, 403rd MSF
A1C George Gary Mason Sr., 403rd CES
Capt. Sonya L. Ramsey, 403rd ASTS
SSgt. Donald P. Sargent 403rd MXS

JANUARY CDC COMPLETION

MSgt. Cheryl A. Stanley, 4A071
SrA Barbara E. Young, 3S251
SrA Randall S. Dunn, 2A551
SrA Rufus J. Watkins, 10028
TSgt. Kevin M. Wattier, 3E451
SrA Candie M. Ellison, 2T350A
Airman Jason G. Leggett, 2A656
SrA David L. Swanson, 3S251
TSgt. Timothy L. Long, 1W051A
SrA Angela D. Albert, 3S051B
SSgt. Lowell H. Mckenzie, Jr. 2T271
SSgt. Nick E. Paladino, 2T271

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Big Birds

Two of the 403rd Wing's new colonels pinned on their rank in February.

Mrs. Denise Underkofler, assists in pinning Col. Michael J. Underkofler, commander, 403rd Operations Group, as Brig. Gen. Charles Ethredge, commander, 403rd Wing helps out. Colonel Underkofler was the first of the wing's new colonels to be pinned.



Photo by SrA J. Justin Pearce



Photo by SrA Elizabeth Moore

An old friend stops by to salute the new colonel. Mr. Leon Burdshaw, left, a WWII veteran and good friend of Col. Paul Waters, commander, 403rd Maintenance Group, was also present at the colonel's commissioning. Legend has it that Mr. Burdshaw was the first to salute 2nd Lieutenant Waters and wanted to be the first to salute



Courtesy Photo: 403rd KS

(Above) Dana Kelley, a new recruit, stands by his wife, Maj. Rebecca Kelley, 403rd ASTS. The major administered the oath for her husband who will be a loadmaster for the 815th AS. (Right) A group from the 41st APS gathered to salute Tech. Sgt. Gary M. Ruehs, front row, far-left, who is leaving the Reserve to attend Officer Training School to become an active duty pilot in the Air Force.



Courtesy Photo: 41st APS



Photo by SrA Michael Eaton



Photo by SSgt. James R. Pritchett



Photo by SrA Jessie Armstrong, 403rd CES, UPAR

Master Sgt. Gene Challenor, a structural engineer for the 403rd CES, drives a forklift while organizing the CE Warehouse. After more than 32 years in the service he plans on staying for in for another year. Sergeant Challenor has worked in various career fields in the Air Force such as Security Forces and Supply.

(Above, Left) Staff Sgt. Joseph T. Cantrell, a structure repair technician for the 403rd Fabrication Branch uses a belt sander to sand down an aircraft part. (Above, Right) Communications Apprentices, listen up as Staff Sgt. Greg Garcia demonstrates the use of a lensatic compass in setting up mobile communications equipment. These airmen from the 403rd CF, spent part of the February UTA in the field at the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center. Pictured from left to right are Sergeant Garcia, SrA Jamal Henry, Staff Sgt. Sonny Parker and SrA Kathryn Fields.



Photos by SrA J. Justin Pearce

(Above) Master Sgt. Michelle Rivera, first sergeant, 815th AS, presents Mrs. Jodell Klein with a bouquet of flowers during a ceremony honoring the late Chief Master Sgt. Darrell Klein. (Below) Mrs. Klein shows the permanent plaque that will be displayed at the 53rd WRS.

Award presented by Klein family

By Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

Senior staff writer

Those who knew and worked with Chief Master Sgt. Darrell Klein are making sure the impression he left on the 403rd Wing is an indelible one — they've established an award for aviation excellence in his name.

During February's UTA, several dozen members of the wing joined with Klein's immediate family to

pay homage to the standardization and evaluation flight engineer, who lost his life in a December 2002 motorcycle accident. In addition to words of praise from family and friends, the first winner of the award was announced, Master Sgt. Gary Maynard, a flight engineer with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. Lt. Col. Floyd Plash, 53rd WRS director of operations, accepted the award on behalf of Sergeant Maynard, who was participating in a presidential support mission at the time of the ceremony.

Specifically, the annual award recognizes the airman who has demonstrated in-flight evaluation excellence and typifies the core values and characteristics of Chief Klein. It will be limited to only those aircrew members who have earned an "Exceptionally Qualified" (or "EQ"), the highest evaluation grade, during the calendar year. According to Col. Michael Underkofler, commander, 403rd Operations Group, members of the Standardization and Evaluation section will select the recipient.

On hand to present the award was Chief



96th APS Mobilized

By Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

Senior Staff Writer

Approximately 100 members of the 96th Aerial Port Squadron recently proved their war readiness by responding to a short-notice deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The deployment is expected to last a year.

The aerial porters departed their assigned location of Little Rock AFB, Ark., in late January and reported to Pope AFB, N.C. For several weeks, they worked various shifts in different work centers at Pope. They were scheduled to ship out to Southwest Asia in early March.

The group has been divided into three self-contained "packages." Once in Southwest Asia, the three groups will be distributed throughout the Area of Responsibility. Their air transportation duties include processing air cargo and passengers, as well as loading and unloading aircraft.

The 96th troops received only a three-day notice before departing. Four members of the squadron fast-forwarded their wedding plans and were married the weekend before they left.

"I'm very proud of the response of all our members," said Maj. Lance Turner, commander of the 96th APS, located at Little Rock AFB, Ark. "They came in motivated to do what was necessary and ready to do their jobs. I was very pleased."

All of the deployed aerial porters are traditional reservists, Turner pointed out.

"Obviously, this is very disruptive to their lives - to their families and to their employers," he said. "But everyone had a good, positive attitude."

The deployed 96th aerial porters are part of a rotation of approximately 300,000 military personnel in and out of the AOR. Turner said the 96th's current deployment is not related to their Air Expeditionary Force cycle deployment.

In the past year, the 96th APS has been tasked for deployments more than any other Reserve and Air National Guard aerial port unit, according to Turner.



Courtesy Photo: 96th APS

(Above) Staff Sgt. Nick Paladino readies his mobility bags for shipment during initial processing before the 96th APS ships out.

(Left) Tech. Sgt. Rafael Santiago receives his "C" Bag issue. The aerial porters departed Little Rock AFB, Ark., in late January and reported to Pope AFB, N.C. the unit was scheduled to leave for Southwest Asia earlier this month.



Courtesy Photo: 96th APS

Klein's widow, Mrs. Jodell Klein. Other family members who made the trip from Florida for the ceremony were Chief Klein's mother, Mrs. Helen Klein; his son, Anthony; his daughters, Ms. Michelle Klein and Mrs. Melissa Bowman; his son-in-law, Mr. Michael Bowman and his granddaughter, Lindsey.

The ceremony also included a posthumous presentation of the Aerial Achievement Medal (first oak leaf cluster) for Klein's role in flying 15 weather reconnaissance missions in 2002.

Among those on hand to pay tribute to Chief Klein at the ceremony was long-time friend and co-worker Chief Master Sgt. James Gennaro, a chief flight engineer with the 711th Special Operations Squadron at Duke Field, Fla. Chief Klein was well known for his friendliness and "never met a stranger," according to Chief Gennaro, who recalled how he met Chief Klein during a cross-country flight. "Within five minutes it was like we had known each other all our lives."

Before long, they both were serving as Air Reserve Technicians with the 711th and their friendship grew. Their families became close as well.

"He was like a brother...a brother I never had," said Chief Gennaro.

Eventually Chief Klein joined the 403rd Wing. "I tried to lure him back to the 711th," Chief Gennaro joked. "He would call me to brag about his most recent TDY to some exotic island. All I could come up with was, 'Yeah, well I went to Fort Campbell last week.'"

In addition to the award, a plaque dedicated to the Chief was unveiled at the ceremony. It will become a permanent fixture in the 403rd Ops Group.

The ceremony concluded with a standing ovation for Chief Klein's family. Following the ceremony, Ms. Michelle Klein reflected on what her father meant to the 403d Wing.

"I never expected anything like this," she said, with tears streaming down her face. "It's just wonderful to see how much he was honored and how much he accomplished. He's greatly missed every day."

Mrs. Jodell Klein said she was surprised when she was contacted by the wing and asked to be special guest of honor, along with her family. "It was lovely," she said. "We're just very honored."

Hurricane Hunter earns her wings

By Capt. Chad Gibson
UPAR, 53rd WRS

"Taxi checklist complete, Pilot."
"Complete, Co-pilot."

This common phrase from the pilot's checklist has a different sound aboard the unit's weather reconnaissance aircraft since July when the co-pilot's response first echoed over the airwaves in much different tones.

After more than 10 years without a female pilot, the Hurricane Hunters welcomed aboard 2nd Lt. Dena Schulz after her graduation from Undergraduate Pilot Training in June.

Although she is aware there are fewer types of airframes available to female pilots, she is just happy to be flying. "Ever since I was 3 or 4 years old, I have wanted to fly," Lieutenant Schulz recalled.

Throughout her childhood, aviation surrounded Schulz. Both of her parents have worked for American Airlines. Her Dad, Doug Williams was a pilot and her Mom, Dee was a flight attendant.

It wasn't her parents though who inspired her to reach toward the sky; it was the final frontier that beckoned.

"When the space shuttle (Columbia) launched in 1981, I knew right then I wanted to be an astronaut and flying could help me," she said. Since then, her goal has changed. Rather than a means to an end, flying is now her mission.

As a teenager, she worked hard at learning science and the fundamentals of flying until she finally took her first solo flight at 17 years old.

"One of my fondest memories was soloing in a Cessna and then going to the prom," said Lieutenant Schulz.

She said that even though her parents worked in aviation, it really didn't give her a head start. Despite having a pilot for a Dad, she never had any lessons from him. "My parents were very supportive of my desires to fly, but the only flying training I received from my Dad was before UPT when he told me to 'always trust your instruments.'"

At the University of Virginia Schulz earned her bache-

lor's degree in Engineering Science in 2000. It was in her senior year when her thesis piqued her interest. The topic: hurricanes.

When she learned about the Hurricane Hunters, she realized there was a way to combine her love for flying and an interest in weather.

Her interests set her on the right path toward her career, but she found that the road to becoming a hurricane hunter was not a smooth ride. She not only had to get a pilot slot with the only operational weather reconnaissance unit in the world, but also needed to get through Officer Training School and UPT.

Lieutenant Schulz began the long process of earning her wings when she joined the Squadron in November 2001. It took nearly two years of hard work and perseverance before she became a pilot in June.

The toughest part of the process was "paperwork and having patience," she said. "But I never had any doubt."

Lieutenant Schulz said she is sometimes asked what it is like to be a female in a predominantly male career field.

"It has really never been an issue. Throughout, UPT and here at the unit, there is only one label that matters to me - pilot," she said.

When she talks to other women who want to fly, the Lieutenant tells them to "have an open mind, to let people be themselves and be patient."

She said she tells them not to sweat the small stuff and work hard to be the best pilot. "By doing so, gender will not be an issue. Don't let your gender (male or female) get in the way of doing your work."

The sky is the limit for Lieutenant Schulz's future on the job and at home. During UPT she met Chris Schulz, an F-15 pilot stationed at Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.

Even at home she decided to break with tradition -- it was she who asked Chris to marry her. He said yes, and they were married July 6.

She admits a long-distance relationship is tough, but their commitment keeps them focused on the day when they can be together.



Photo by SSgt. James B. Pritchett

Flight planning is an integral part of 2nd Lt. Dena Schulz's new job as a pilot for the Hurricane Hunters. Schulz, the first female pilot to serve with the unit in 10 years, just returned from survival school.



Photo by SSgt. James B. Pritchett

While wearing chemical protective gear, troops help each other apply simulated M9 chemical identification tape to keep from exhausting themselves and ensure proper adhesion. Master Sgt. Shaun Grigsby taped up fellow intel "operative" SrA Elizabeth Moore.

Wing tests ability to survive, operate

Reporting to drill at 00-dark-thirty is nothing new for most Reservists. During February however, many had to get up even earlier to make the 0530 showtime.

Troops gathered at rally points for a quick check of their deployment documents before heading to the 815th Airlift Squadron for a pre-flight briefing.

After the boxed breakfasts were divided, bartered and exchanged, things got serious.

More than 130 troops from the 403rd Wing boarded C-130s and "deployed"

to the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport Feb. 6. Upon their arrival, just after sun-up, troops were told to don their chemical protective gear and were divided into groups for training.

This exercise, according to Senior Master Sgt. John Huffman, was designed to get people thinking about upcoming Unit Compliance Inspections and Inspector General Exercises.

He said it's even more important for Reservists to know how to survive and operate in a potentially con-

taminated environment.

Sergeant Huffman, who designed and led the exercise, also spent time teaching Buddy Aid and Buddy Assistance, Hydration, and Masking.

Those who participated in the exercise also learned how to use M8 detection paper, what to do as members of a sweep team, how to harden a shelter, identification of unexploded ordnance and during lunch--how to properly heat up an MRE.

The troops returned to Keesler Sunday morning.



Photo by SrA Elizabeth Moore

SrA Ernest Lipscomb, 403rd OSF, asks a "Red Hat" instructor a ques-



It's all about teamwork. Aircrew members of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron help each other board the 20-man life raft during their water survival training. This bi-annual training was held for the Hurricane Hunters during February's UTA at the YMCA pool in Ocean Springs.

WATER *Survival*

Aircrews splash into local pool for 'sink or swim' refresher training

By SrA J. Justin Pearce
Staff Writer

The Hurricane Hunters certainly weren't high and dry for this exercise.

With life preservers strapped on, they splashed into the water at the YMCA pool in Ocean Springs for semi-annual water survival training in February.

During training, the Hurricane Hunters learned skills needed to survive if they are ever forced to punch out of an aircraft.

"It's important to practice the skills needed to survive in adverse conditions," said Maj. Roger Gardner, an instructor pilot with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. "Aircrews must be able to respond out of instinct based on their training instead of letting fear and panic set in."

To make sure their water survival skills are in peak condition, 53rd life support technicians prepare the Hurricane Hunters for emergency evacuations.

At the exercise, the group practiced

using lifesaving equipment available to them in emergencies, said Senior Airman Jerald Dixon, a life-support instructor. Dixon and others from the life support team, devised a scenario that allowed aircrews to simulate their reactions to the aftermath of an over water evacuation from a C-130.

When a C-130 takes a nose-dive into the sea, aircrews jettison self-inflating life rafts and evacuate any passengers into the water.

Now, water survival training comes into play, said Dixon.

The aircrew must be trained to help each other get onto a life raft. If the weather is violent, they must cover the rafts to protect themselves.

During training, life support technicians timed and monitored the group's progress, making sure it was up to standards.

"We're here to make sure they are familiar with every piece of floatation equipment and every survival technique on the open sea," said Dixon. "If a plane goes down, that's their only way of survival until they get rescued."



Lt. Col P.I. Pierson, a navigator with the 53rd WRS, straps on his life preserver before jumping in the pool during water survival training. This bi-annual training was held during February's UTA at the YMCA pool in Ocean Springs.



Clearing a life raft of excess water before climbing in can prevent sinking. Maj. Chuck Beerman, a pilot with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, splashes water out of his raft as part of a demonstration during water survival training.

Don't rush around: Outprocess properly to ensure family benefits

By Maj. Norby Patterson
Commander, 403rd MSF

So, you're going to be on extended orders. Do you have to out-process for this particular duty? If so, where do you start? Who do you contact if you have further questions? Will you accrue leave? Are you authorized downtime upon your return? What is the air-speed-velocity of an unladen African swallow?

I'll start with the questions I can answer. You MUST out-process for ANY TDY over 30 days. This includes working for the 81st Training Wing. Out-processing for tours over 30 days begins in the Personnel Relocations Office, Bldg. 0223, Rm. 205, with the exception of contingency support and AEF rotations (addressed below).

Schools

You should out-process for ALL schools, whether the school is two days or two months. According to MSgt Tammy Campbell of the relocations office, the length of the school does not determine whether or not you out-process. All 403d Wing members going to a formal school in military status must out-process. No exceptions to the rule.

Tours over 30 days

You betcha! You need to out-process for extended tours also. Just like school tours, out-processing starts in the relocations office for tours over 30 days.

Unfortunately, everything cannot be as simple as school tours. If you are going on a tour that is less than 30 days but there is the possibility it could be extended past 30 days, then it is in your best interest to out-process. That way, if your tour is extended, you will already be briefed on what you need to accomplish to get your benefits and pay started and ensure you have the proper information regarding benefits for your dependents.

Although not required for a 403d Wing tour, it is highly recommended that you use the out-processing checklist to ensure you receive the

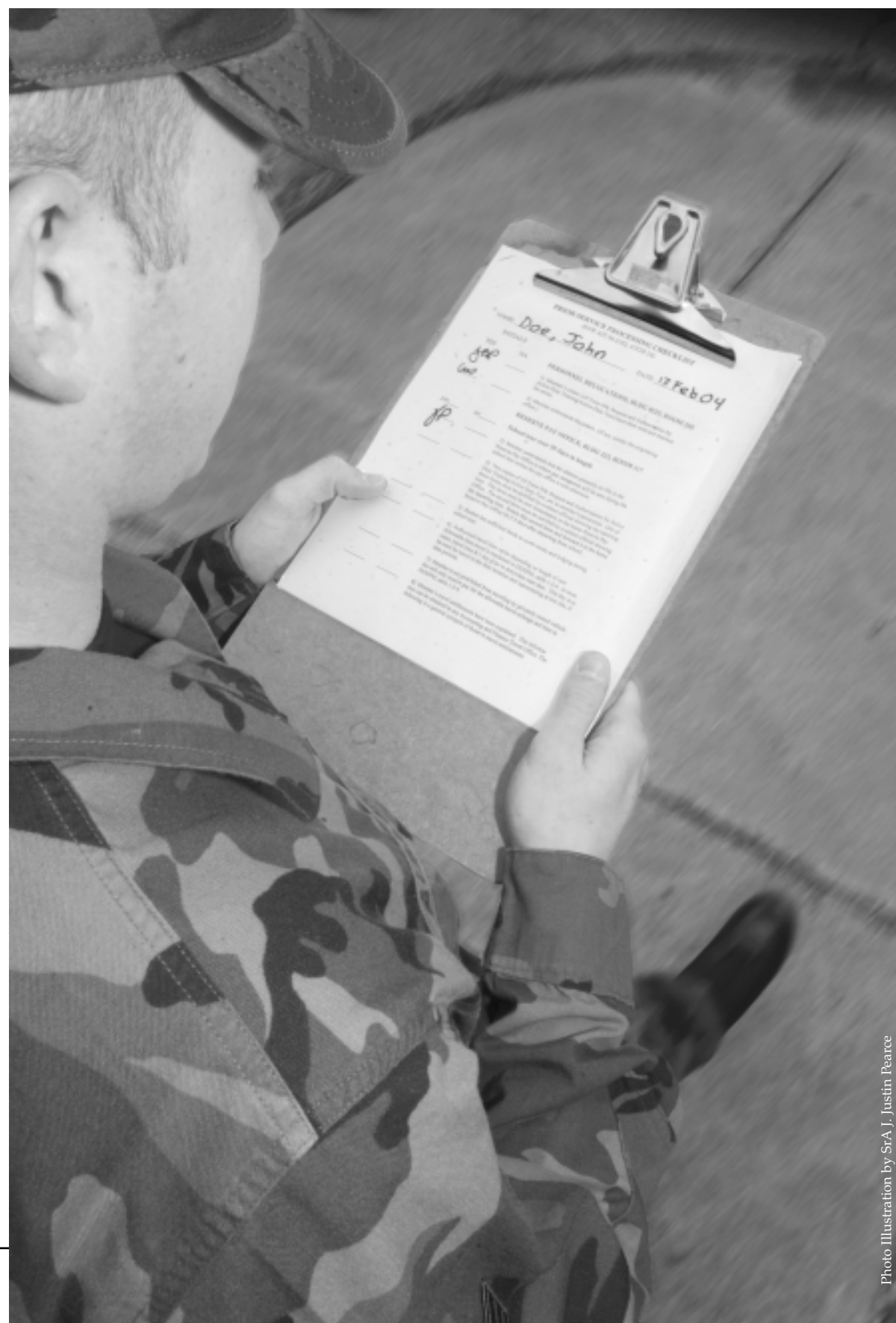
full benefits afforded you during an extended tour. Even though you are not leaving your unit, you and your family are eligible for many active duty benefits. The best way to make sure you are aware of them all is to out-process. Part of the checklist is visiting military pay, a simple step many performing duty at home station forget (until they don't get paid). Don't wait until payday to find out you didn't out-process correctly, get a copy of the checklist and do it right the first time.

AEF rotations

Out-processing starts with your Unit Deployment Manager for all contingency support and AEF rotations, even those under 30 days. They should have the proper checklist for the Area of Responsibility you will be based out of. For a contingency support or AEF rotation your UDM is your best friend. This is the person who will make sure your training is up-to-date and you have the proper equipment. The checklist your UDM provides you will direct you to all the offices within the wing you must out-process through.

Keep close track of this checklist and don't attempt to take any shortcuts. There have been instances of individuals deploying without the proper medical evaluations, equipment, etc. In those instances the individuals have been delayed at a forward location until everything is corrected. Your delay will cause a cascade effect felt by many: the individual you are scheduled to replace will be delayed in country until your arrival; the wing will be called for the information needed and an explanation on why your checklist wasn't accomplished properly; reports will have to be filed up and down the chain with explanations and corrective actions so it won't happen again.

We all know the saying about "stuff" rolling down hill, right? Well, ultimately you are responsible for your out-processing and you will be held accountable for not having it completed properly. Ask questions at every stop on your checklist to make sure you know what you need.



If you don't get answers, keep asking until you do.

Leave

For all tours over 30 days, you will accrue leave. When you out-process with Military Pay they will brief you on your pay, leave, and family separation (if you qualify). They will also give you a "Military Pay Processing Sheet" with all the same information. The sheet includes both the fax and voice numbers (DSN and commercial) for the military pay office.

For MPA, contingency support, and AEF rotations, the important thing to remember is the end date on your orders is just that, the end date. If you do not take your leave during the tour or make arrangements to be back in time to take your leave prior to the orders ending, then you will have to sell your leave back. Your orders will not be extended to allow you to take leave.

Whether you take leave during your tour or have to wait till the end of your tour, you must make sure you have the paperwork filled out and approved prior to beginning your leave.

Downtime

This applies to contingency support and AEF rotations only. You would not believe the amount of man-hours that have been used to find the answer to the question, "How much downtime do I get?"

Downtime is simply time at home station at the end of your tour used to get your personal affairs in order after having been gone for so long. It is not leave and you should not plan like it is. You must take downtime in the local area of your home station (Keesler AFB) and you are on-call if your work area needs you. You should only have to report to the office if they call you for a specific purpose. The most important thing to remember is if you leave the local area during this time you must be in a leave status.

Why do we have downtime? Here's one reason, though there are probably more: People were returning from extended rotations to bills,

personal, and professional matters that had to be addressed immediately. Complaints were heard of individuals using all their leave to fix these problems instead of using it with their families. Thus we have downtime.

How much downtime are you authorized? Downtime will vary from 7 to 14 days depending on the length of your tour and which MAJCOM you are supporting. Make sure you ask the question when you out-process. The answer you receive will help you calculate your return date.

Just like with accrued leave, your downtime is already figured into your orders. This means the end date on your orders is not your day due back, you have to adjust your travel home to allow for downtime and leave. Orders will not be extended due to delays within your control.

In conclusion

Oh, if only we lived in a perfect world! Unfortunately we do not. Things come up all the time to cause problems and create new questions that need to be addressed. I could take the entire issue of the "Gulf Wing" to address different problems individuals have had and still not cover everything.

My advice - keep track of everything. Put a copy of your out-processing paperwork in a folder to take with you. Along with this paperwork you should have a POC, phone number (DSN and commercial), and fax number (DSN and commercial) of each office you dealt with. Take a notebook with you while you out-process. When you ask a question, quickly jot down the answer and who gave it to you. That way if questions come up you can refer to your notes. And don't forget, your unit is the first line of defense. If you have any problems, keep them in the loop so they can follow-up and help you.

To paraphrase a popular quote: "You're in the Air Force now!" The success of your trip ultimately rests with you.

(As for the African swallow. I have no idea. If you find out, please let me know.)

Finance Office wins awards

By SSgt. Michael Duhe

Senior Staff Writer

"An awesome team" is how Mrs. Ann Kranz describes her 403rd Wing Financial Analysis Office. Two recent command-level awards earned by the office helps back up her claim.

The office won Air Force Reserve Financial Office of the Year for 2003. In addition to that honor, Mr. Steve McCabe was named Air Force Reserve Financial Analysis Civilian of the Year, GS-11 and above.

Among the 403rd Financial Analysis Office's accomplishments:

- ◆ Spearheaded research and verified overpayment of travel vouchers, identified \$70,000 to base travel to preclude overpayment
- ◆ Called upon by 10th Air Force, 22nd Air Force and AFRC bases for assistance with training
- ◆ Processed more than 16,498 orders
- ◆ Implemented a process where order turnaround time back to the member was 24 hours or less
- ◆ Utilized fallout funds to cover the wing's \$824,400 unfunded requirements

Mrs. Kranz said she was "pretty ecstatic" to hear her office had won the award. "It's a very prestigious award because you're competing against all AFRC bases," she explained. "This is only our second time submitting our nomination for the award, so we are really honored to receive it."

McCabe who is considered an accounting and financial expert on base; provides in-house training to co-workers and was asked by the Base Comptroller for assistance in training his technicians

"Steve was pretty excited to hear he had won," Mrs. Kranz said. "For us to have received two awards at one time...we were all elated."



Photo by SrA J. Justin Pearce

Facelift

Workmen begin demolition on the facade of the 403rd Wing Headquarters, Bldg. 0223, in advance of efforts to restore the looks of the building. When it was built, designers won awards for the creative cosmetic concept of the building. Over the years, settling and other structural problems led to a sagging face. Last summer, potential safety issues led engineers to place scaffolding around the exterior to prevent accidents until the makeover could begin. For the next several months, while work is underway parking and entry to the building will be affected.

Dental Exam? Don't delay No exam means no pay

By SrA Michael Eaton

Staff Writer

No points, no pay.

It's a situation everyone wants to avoid. This to-the-point phrase means just what it says. A member cannot participate in any point or pay-gaining activity until he meets the requirements causing him to be placed in this status. One sure way to end up in a no-points, no-pay status is by failing to comply with dental examination responsibilities.

Lt. Col. Paul Rouse Jr., a dentist with the 403rd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, said a member can fall under one of four different dental classifications:

Class 1: Member has no dental problems and is deployable worldwide.

Class 2: Member has minor dental problems that are not expected to develop into any type of dental emergency that would affect duty time within a 12-month period. Members in this category are considered worldwide deployable.

Class 3: Member has a dental problem that, within a 12-month period, may cause loss of duty time because of dental emergency. Members in this category are not qualified for worldwide deployment.

Class 4: Member is overdue for a dental exam so it is not known what kind of shape the member's teeth are in. It can also mean there is no dental record on file for the member.

According to regulations, Air Force and Air Force Reserve members must have a dental exam every year. Colonel Rouse said the exam is due during the birth month of the member. Once every three years, a member is required to have a military dental exam with their physical. That exam satisfies the requirement for that year but it's the two years in between that are causing problems.

During those "in-between" years members are required to bring in a DD Form 2813 signed by their civilian den-

tist verifying that dental care was provided. As long as a panoramic X-ray is on file in the member's dental records dentists can use the form to assign a dental classification, said Colonel Rouse. That will satisfy the requirement for that year. If a member goes past his birth month without a dental exam he is automatically assigned Dental Class 4, meaning the individual has no current dental exam and gets no points or pay after 90 days.

"The main thing we are concerned about is that these members' dental health is good enough that they can deploy for 12 months without dental care," said Colonel Rouse.

The colonel said there is no need to panic if a civilian dentist marks a person down as a Class 3 on their DD form 2813.

"They just need to come see us," he said.

Colonel Rouse noted they it is their procedure to check any member whose 2813 is marked Class 3 by a civilian doctor. In one similar situation, he recalls, a civilian dentist felt an airman needed some crowns and a lot of expensive work. The member was reluctant to bring the 2813 to ASTS. She eventually brought it in and ASTS scheduled her for an oral exam.

"We checked her and from our opinion, and from a military standpoint, she had two or three teeth that needed filling but didn't need all those crowns," he said.

In the past, according to Colonel Rouse, misunderstandings arose about the difference in dental classification and dental profile. Commanders now understand the difference, he said.

Commanders want to be able to send a troop to duty and know the person can perform without losing time to dental complications, said Rouse.

Responsibility ultimately lies with the member, said Rouse, to make sure their paperwork is in order.

For more information about the dental exam requirement, contact the 403rd ASTS. Dentists are on duty during Unit Training Assemblies.

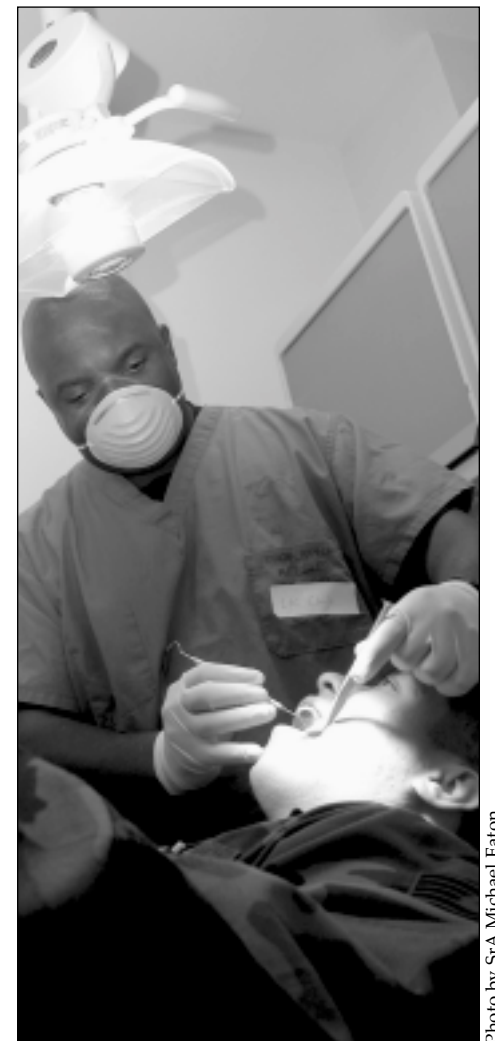


Photo by SrA Michael Eaton

Dental exams are an annual requirement for reservists. Those who fail to comply could end up in a no-points, no-pay status.

Tuition Assistance

Members using tuition assistance are now required to ensure their proof of completion is provided no later than 60 days after class completion date, this policy went into effect Dec. 1.

Beginning Feb. 1, DANTES is no longer accepting grades or making payment for any grades received more than 60 days after class completion date.

Students should not rely on rare exceptions to the policy. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by case basis.

Gulf Wing No. 1

The Gulf Wing was honored with two awards in the Air Force Reserve Command Media Contest. The Gulf Wing was awarded first place in the magazine category and took second place overall as in the top command news paper competition.

Individuals from the 403rd Public Affairs Office were also recognized for achievement in the contest. Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe, senior staff writer, took second place in the Sports Writing category; Staff Sgt. James B. Pritchett, editor, was awarded third place in Photojournalism and Stringer Marie Haberstroh, a unit public affairs representative for the Civil Air Patrol earned third place for contributor/stringer photo.

The Gulf Wing will go forward to compete against other magazines at the Air Force level.

Blood Donations

A parasitic disease spread by sand flies in Iraq has prompted officials who oversee the military's blood supply to begin a one-year donor deferral for military people serving in that country.

The reason for the deferral is a form of the disease Leishmaniasis, which causes

sores or lesions on the skin and in its most serious form can cause death. People who get the disease are permanently deferred from donating blood.

Education Online

The Air Force Virtual Education Center is the Air Force's premier site for providing information about your education benefits. The purpose of this site is to provide you, the "student", a one-stop-shop for all your higher education needs.

Register for your own AFVEC Account and get access to services like online CCAF Transcript Request or Degree Progress Report. Your own personal start page organizes your inter-

ests and keeps you up to date with your local education center's news and events. Sign up at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec>

Review Records

A new program now allows airmen to complete record reviews online through the virtual military personnel flight.

Airmen will receive e-mail notifications around their birthday each year advising them to review their electronic personnel records maintained in the military personnel data system. Airmen can correct errors found in some areas by using the links provided.

Uniform Hits Street

Airmen at two bases will get a first-hand look at the

proposed new utility uniform Feb. 9 when the tiger-striped blue-, green- and gray-patterned ensemble begins its wear-test phase.

Officials will deliver the distinctive uniforms to testers at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Langley AFB, Va.

A uniform board official provided an update on the utility uniform and also released details about the fitness uniform.

This is the largest wear test the Air Force has done. Typically an item goes through a wear test at a maximum of three bases and 300 people.

This test will be conducted at nine bases with 700 airmen participating.

Gulf Wing Reflections

Originally printed in the wing magazine, May 1996.



File Photo

Survival Swim

Maj. James Skinner, a WC-130 aircraft commander, prepares a canopy to place over a life support raft to protect "survivors" from the elements after a simulated emergency water evacuation.

Leave program helps activated fed employees

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—Federal employees who are called up by a Reserve or National Guard unit to support a contingency can use special leave to supplement lost wages.

They can receive their civilian income instead of military pay for 22 days if their civil service job pays more than the military.

"Although not new to the federal government, 22 days of military leave is a new entitlement for reservists and National Guard members supporting contingency operations," said Ms. Meg

Keith, human resources program manager at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. "It's based on a much older program used to compensate employees who perform law enforcement and civil defense duties."

The military leave program went into effect Nov. 24, 2003, with the signing of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act; however, guidance for running the program is still being worked out.

"Congress extended this benefit to activated employees who are support-

ing contingency operations so they don't lose money," Ms. Keith said. "We have asked the Air Force to clarify how the leave program will be implemented. We will provide more details when we get them."

In addition to the 22 days, federal employees receive 15 days of military leave each year to train with their National Guard or Reserve unit. Under the 15-day military leave entitlement, they get to keep both their military and civilian pay.

AFRC News Service

Defense Department axes Internet voting plans

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—Defense Department officials are axing an Internet voting program because of concerns about security, a Pentagon spokeswoman said Feb. 6.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program, which aids Americans serving overseas in the voting process, will not use the SERVE system in November. The acronym stands for Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment.

"The department has decided not to use the SERVE program in the November elections because of our inability to ensure the legitimacy of the votes," the spokeswoman said. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz signed the memo on SERVE Jan. 30.

The cancellation follows a report by four of the 10 computer security experts asked to test the system. Those four decided the system did not ensure the legitimacy of votes. The report they issued said there were a number of ways computer hackers could crack into the system.

Mr. Wolfowitz said he will reconsider his decision only if researchers can prove integrity can be maintained, the spokeswoman said.

The program is not new. In the 2000 election, counties in South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Florida participated in a proof-of-concept demonstration. A total of 84 voters in 21 states and 11 countries voted in those jurisdictions. DOD officials had hoped to expand the program to include about 100,000 voters.

The program was open to U.S. citizens who fall under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

Congress mandated the program in the fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act. DOD officials will seek legislative relief from the project if it is needed.

The decision doesn't end Internet voting research. Research will continue. Under the project, eligible voters would have been able to register and vote electronically via any Windows-based personal computer with Internet access from anywhere in world.

Overseas voters can still vote by regular paper ballots, or via fax. The Federal Voting Assistance Program has more information on its web site, and servicemembers also can contact their unit voting assistance officers.

Reserve streamlines travel processing

By Jim Miller

Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—Accurate and secure records, universal e-mail copies of vouchers and possibly faster payouts are what Air Force travelers have to look forward to starting this spring.

Financial management offices throughout the active-duty Air Force are set to begin using Air Force Reserve Command's Reserve Travel System March 31. Air National Guard offices are expected to go on line in July.

"The Reserve Travel System is the only travel computation system that specifically addresses the varied needs and requirements for Reserve travel vouchers, including multiple orders and changes in status," said Ms. Penny Meredith-Pogue, chief of the financial systems branch at Headquarters AFRC. "RTS also computes travel vouchers for civilians and active-duty people, as well as civilian and military permanent-change-of-station vouchers."

Sixteen Air Force Reserve travel offices have been using the Windows-based application since 1998, and eight active-duty sites adopted the system between 2000 and 2002. The active-duty sites began using the system because they process so many travel vouchers for reservists.

"The Reserve Travel System is great example of the Air Force Reserve and active-duty force working together within Air Force financial management," said Lt. Col. Patrick A Coe, director of the Air Force Accounting and Finance Office in Denver. "Air Force-wide use of the RTS will benefit us all in several ways."

Training ensures fallen comrades receive honor

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—American military people who are killed in the line of duty deserve our nation's gratitude and our highest respect for their incredible sacrifice.

To ensure that our honored dead receive professional care and handling, instructors at Dover AFB, Del., trained 40 mortuary affairs workers during a mass casualty exercise Jan. 23-25.

"This is one of the toughest jobs in the entire military," said Mr. Robert N. Bemis, director of Services at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. "Because of outstanding training like this, our reservists are ready to help bring our fallen comrades back home to family and friends."

During the three-day course at Dover's Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs, each member of the mortuary team trains to understand the process of identification, autopsy, embalming, dressing, wrapping and casketing. In addition, volunteers can work in the support areas to include records management, uniform preparation, supply and equipment.

"The sensitivity and urgency of the

operation requires volunteers to maintain their composure at all times and perform their duties with dignity, honor and respect," said Maj. Krista Kortum, chief of Services Plans and Force Management Division at the headquarters. "They work alongside members of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, armed forces medical examiners, FBI, anthropologists and morticians."

Air Force Reserve Command has more than 270 reservists trained for this mission, adding up to more than 67 percent of the total Air Force support for mortuary operations. Both active and Reserve units from across the Air Force have a rotating responsibility to support the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs – the military's only stateside mortuary.

"It's one thing to read operating instructions, but to come in and actually do hands-on work makes a difference," said Karen Giles, director at the center and an Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel.

Thirty reservists from Dover's 512th Memorial Affairs Squadron attended the training as well as 10 active-duty

members from the 60th Services Squadron at Travis AFB, Calif. Regardless of how many contingencies a person works or how many remains a person has actually processed, all Air Force members supporting the mortuary must complete this type of training at least every two years.

"I was sort of nervous as we stood there waiting for the medical examiners to give the OK to open the transfer cases," said Senior Airman Virginia Samuel, 512th MAS. "I was building up with anxiety. Overall, I found the day to be very insightful. I learned a lot of new things."

A few veteran mortuary workers attended, but for most of the class this was their first introduction to mortuary operations. Reservists have worked at the Dover mortuary since the 1991 Gulf War.

"I've learned a lot about the building's logistics, especially how the air flow system works," said Staff Sgt. Tracy Bailey, who's been working in the mortuary since August 2002.

She said the course was a good refresher and provided a complete tour of the new facility, which opened in the fall of 2003.

As the end of the first day of training came to a close, trainees learned there was a change to the following day's agenda as Ms. Giles made an announcement.

"Tomorrow becomes real-world training," she said.

Four transfer cases – temporary coffins used to ferry military remains from overseas – arrived that night, and the trainees observed the mortuary workers performing all the duties taught on the first day of the training.

Taking the training as a refresher, Senior Master Sgt. Avon Bryant said not everyone can handle this work.

"Every person assigned to 512th MAS will take this course, but we don't force them to work on bodies," said Sergeant Bryant, who has been processing remains since the Khobar Towers incident in 1996.

Eleven other units are slated to take mass fatality training by August.

"We focus training on the step-by-step process from start to finish, because if they understand the process that goes into preparing one person, they'll understand it's the same process that goes into 100," said Ms. Giles.



First Lt. Mark Lathan of the 436th Services Squadron at Dover Air Force Base, Del., conducts the casket inspection during mortuary affairs training for 40 airmen Jan. 23-25. Air Force Reserve Command has more than 270 reservists trained to work in mortuary affairs, adding up to more than 67 percent of the total career field in the Air Force.

Air Force Photo by Kristin Royalty

FITNESS

Evaluate lifestyle for family, friends

By Col. Maria de los A. Pons
Commander, 403rd ASTS

In my private practice as a pediatric neurologist and as a flight surgeon, I see hundreds of patients complaining of headaches and other medical symptoms related to stress.

Symptoms range from frequent headaches to neck pain, back pain, mood changes, insomnia, changes in appetite and even weight gain. While these symptoms can be manifestations of systemic medical problems that need further investigation, they may also be associated with an increase in stress in our lives.

When most people get "stress headaches" it is usually an isolated event, however, it is important to know the different types of headaches and the clinical manifestations our bodies may use to tell us it's time to make a lifestyle change.

Tension: This is the most common type of headache. It may include mild to moderate pain, tightness or pressure around the head and neck. Tension headaches may be provoked by stress, eye strain or poor posture and can be deemed chronic if they occur on a daily or almost daily basis. Other symptoms associated with tension headaches include fatigue, sleep-disturbance and depression.

Migraine: This is a chronic condition with recurrent episodic attacks. A migraine may include a throbbing or pulsating pain on one or both sides of the head and may last anywhere from 4 to 72 hours.

Cluster: This type of headache affects a small percentage of people and can be described as very severe, non-throbbing pain felt behind one eye or in the temple. Cluster attacks may occur nearly every day or several times a day for weeks or months and may disappear for several months or years. A cluster headache may last anywhere from 15 minutes to three hours and often occur during the night. Other symptoms may include eye tearing and redness, a runny or stuffy nose or facial sweating.

A few types of headaches may indicate a need for immediate medical attention. You should seek medical attention if you experience the sudden onset of severe and unusual headache or an ache that seems to steadily get worse. Headache with a fever and stiff neck may indicate another health issue. Headaches accompanied by disturbed vision or speech, numbness or weakness, blackouts or difficulty thinking or remembering should be investigated immediately.



We have an opportunity with the Air Force's new fitness program to evaluate our lifestyles; to improve our diets, to take time to exercise and become "Fit to Fight." Fit to fight for our military duties, but even more importantly "Fit to Fight" for a healthy lifestyle.

It has been recommended that we all begin our exercise programs slowly to improve our endurance. I agree with that and also recommend that people start modifying their diets, decreasing the amount of food, but not skipping meals. I also urge everyone to cut down on his or her caffeine intake. For those who smoke, make a plan, make a commitment and follow through to quit. I don't promote alcoholic beverages, but moderation is a good approach.

At home and at work, organize your time to be more effective, but be realistic about how much you can do. Take time for yourself and for your family, and maybe consider exercising with your family. Evaluate your own emotional stress factors and consider positive solutions. If it is necessary, seek professional counseling.

We want to be "Fit to Fight" for our military careers, but most important, we want to be "fit" for our own health, for our own self-satisfaction and for our families and friends.



Courtesy Photo: 815th AS

Snow Shoes

Snow covers a C-130J as loadmasters, Tech. Sgt. Vince Burden and Tech. Sgt. Mike Randag, load up before a recent airlift support mission. Clearing the snow off the windshield of an aircraft is different than scraping the frost off of your car with a credit card. According to Capt. Jeff Ragusa, co-pilot for the mission, "We encountered snow, cold temps, icing, and clouds at many of our destinations that week. Luckily, we were at Dover AFB, Del. where they are used to de-icing aircraft." Other crew members who "enjoyed" the snow were Capt. Dan Windham, aircraft commander and Tech. Sgt. Mike Lee, crew chief.

Gulf Wing Go-Getter



Each month the Gulf Wing is printed for people of the 403rd Wing, like Tech. Sgt. Mary Adamson, of the 41st APS.

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To The Family Of: